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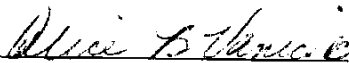
APPLICANTS: Keiji Naruse and Norio Ishida DOCKET NO.: 116566.00005
SERIAL NO.: 10/598,780 EXAMINER:
FILED: 09/11/2006 ART UNIT:
CONFIRMATION NO. 1282
TITLE: Culture Device

Commissioner for Patents
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Alice B. Vanicek

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In keeping with the duty of candor and good faith owed to the Patent and Trademark Office, applicants wish to make of record the items on attached PTO Form 1449. A copy of an English translation of the Japanese Patent 2003-61642 is provided in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98.

The concise explanation of the relevance of the remaining foreign language references that are not accompanied by an English translation is presently understood to be the following.

The Nakagaki, M. et al. reference is believed to disclose culture vessels with a thin silicone

rubber membrane fitted to the bottom surface of a rectangular chamber with four side walls formed of silicone rubber, in which there are holes in the opposing side walls along the lengthwise lines of the margins of the aforementioned bottom surface in order to secure the culture vessel in a tensioning device.

The first Naruse, K. et al. reference ("Involvement of SA Channels....") was cited under category A in the International Search Report for the corresponding International Application. Accordingly, this reference is believed to provide mere background information.

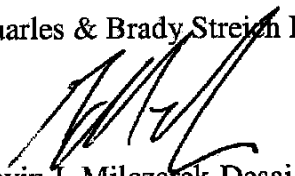
The second Naruse, K. et al. ("Shintn Shigenki...Kaisekiho") reference is believed to disclose culture vessels in which a silicone membrane is fitted to the bottom surface of a square chamber with four side walls formed in silicone rubber, with a pair of opposing side walls being secured in an extending device.

The Sokabe, M. and Naruse, K. reference is believed to disclose a securing means which secures culture vessels via two holes opened in a pair of opposing side walls and hooks into these two holes as a means for securing culture vessels including a silicone chamber with a silicone membrane on the bottom surface.

Applicants believe that none of the foregoing referenced material, alone or in combination, anticipates or renders obvious their invention.

Respectfully submitted

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